



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

JUL 11 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR: Cliff Taffet, Assistant Secretary (Acting),  
Community Planning and Development, D

FROM: *Frances W. Bush*  
Frances W. Bush, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Operations, DO

SUBJECT: Finding of No Significant Impact under the National Environmental  
Policy Act –Notice of Funding Availability for Fiscal Year 2014:  
Rural Capacity Building for Community Development and  
Affordable Housing Grants (FR-5700-N-15)

It is the finding of this office that the attached funding notice (FR-5700-N-15) does not constitute a major Federal action having an individually or cumulatively significant effect on the human environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The Rural Capacity Building Program is authorized by the HUD Appropriations Act, 2014. Eligible recipients are non-profit entities that have ongoing experience in rural housing, including experience working with rural housing organizations, local governments, and Indian Tribes, as evidenced by past and continuing work in one or more states in five or more of the federal regions described on the HUD website. Grants will be available for training, education, support, and advice to enhance the technical and administrative capabilities of rural community development corporations (CDCs) and rural community housing development organizations (CHDOs); loans, grants, development assistance, predevelopment assistance, or other financial assistance to rural community-based housing development organizations, rural CDCs, rural CHDOs, local governments and Indian tribes to carry out community development and affordable housing activities that benefit low-income families and persons, including the acquisition, construction and rehabilitation of housing for low-income families and persons; and such other activities as may be determined by the recipient organizations in consultation with HUD.

This office finds that the notice does not have a significant impact on the human environment for two reasons. First, most of the activities funded by the program consist of training, education, advice, technical support, financial assistance to carry out economic development activities and operating expenses and therefore have no significant physical impact on the environment and are categorically excluded from review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related authorities under 24 CFR 50.19(b)(1), (2), (9), (13) and (14).

Second, after award, any physical activities funded by the program described in this NOFA will undergo individual HUD environmental review in accordance with 24 CFR Part 50 at the time they are considered, and their potential impacts will be addressed more accurately and appropriately

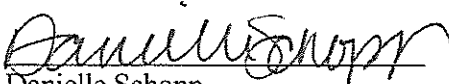
then. Individual projects to be funded by these grants may not be known at the time the overall grants are awarded and also may not be known when some of the subgrants are made.

Therefore, in accordance with 24 CFR 50.3(h), the applications and the grant agreements for this program must provide that no commitment or expenditure for physical activities or property acquisition or lease may be made until HUD has completed an environmental review to the extent required under applicable regulations and has given notification of its approval.

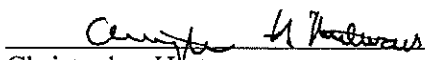
Accordingly, the publication of this notice is deemed not to be a major Federal action having a significant impact on the human environment.

Attachment

Concurrences:


  
 Danielle Schopp  
 Environmental Clearance Officer  
 Office of Environment and Energy

7/9/14  
 Date

  
 Christopher Hartenau  
 Environmental Clearance Officer  
 Office of General Counsel

7/8/14  
 Date

Approval:

  
 Cliff Taffet  
 Assistant Secretary (Acting)  
 Community Planning and Development

7/11/14  
 Date